

San Francisco Estuary Project Implementation Committee Meeting

Friday, August 6, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Elihu M. Harris State Building, Oakland, CA

Meeting Summary

The meeting began at 10:10 a.m.

1. **Introductions/Approval of May 7, 2004 Meeting Summary** - *Larry Kolb, Chair, Implementation Committee*. A round table of introductions was made. The summary was approved. Ms. Mulvey asked about the Triennial Review. Mr. Kolb asked Ms. Mulvey to speak with him during the break for an update.
2. **Public Comments. Any member of the public may address the Implementation Committee (IC) on any matter regarding implementation of the Comprehensive and Management Plan (CCMP). Time is limited to five minutes per person.**
Ms. Mulvey said that Bay Nature one year subscription coupons were available on the information table. Mr. Morat said that Bay Nature is looking for partners.
3. **CCMP Implementation – Wetlands Program: Suisun Marsh Charter Plan** – *Carl Wilcox, DFG*
 - **Presentation and Discussion.** The Suisun Marsh, largest contiguous brackish water wetland on the West Coast, covers about 50,000 acres of sloughs, managed wetlands, and tidal marsh. Historically it was tidal marsh, but today is mostly managed marsh. About 14,000-15,000 acres are in State ownership and the rest in private land. Its water quality is of concern to the Federal and State Water Projects; and to ensure high water quality standards for wildlife, plant, fish, fowl, and human life, the marsh is a highly regulated environment. Marsh management has suffered under ongoing disputes and controversy. The 3-year Charter Group, funded by CALFED has been created to develop an implementation plan. Lead agencies include the US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS), US Bureau of Reclamation (US BUR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), CA Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), CA Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) and the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD). The effort also includes voluntary participation by private landowners. A major challenge is to resolve the conflicts caused by the various agencies' standards on salinity, 404 permits, CEQA, levee integrity, ecological, habitat, invasive species, water and sediment quality and public use and waterfowl hunting, etc. Another big issue is learning how to balance restoration of tidal marsh with the species that have become dependent on managed wetlands. The goal is to carry out a regional plan that includes actions based on sound science and meets the various stakeholders' needs. Public meetings, outreach and the <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/suisunmarsh/charter> website are public participation program components. Fall 2005 is the draft EIS/EIR deadline. Members asked about infrastructure issues (pipelines, train station) and if local government adjacent to the marsh has been involved in the process. Mr. Wilcox commented local government has been invited to participate, but land use planning agencies have not been active. Members also commented it will be important to stay informed about the Charter Group and its plan.

- **CCMP Implementation – Research and Monitoring: Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS)** – *Stephanie Watson, Coordinator*
Presentation and Discussion: Ms. Watson described CeNCOOS as part of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System, which tracks real time oceanographic data and may be used to predict future changes and their impact for the public good. CeNCOOS currently is a collaborative effort of 45 governmental agencies, educational/research entities, and private corporations from the southern coast of San Luis Obispo to Humboldt Bay in the north. Ms. Watson is looking for San Francisco Bay Area partners and she commented that CeNCOOS will provide funding opportunities for monitoring needs. She asked how the Implementation Committee could work with CeNCOOS to implement the CCMP, what are the Estuary's pressing issues, and who should be involved. She announced a two-day organizational workshop to be held September 28-29. Sediment bathymetry and bird monitoring were some ideas for an IC and CeNCOOS partnership. Mr. Smith asked what started the program? The US Congress wants to more efficiently spend its money and target projects that have practical use for citizens. Dr. Kolb said that attention must be given to a duplication of efforts. Ms. Watson said CeNCOOS will identify redundancies.

Action: Ms. Brockbank will email Ms. Watson the Implementation Committee and interested parties mail list.

4. **CCMP Implementation – Public Education and Involvement**

- West Oakland Watershed Project (WOW) – A SFEP Small Grant Project – *Carol Thornton, SFEP*
Presentation by Museum of Children's Art and Cole Elementary School Students
 The Cole School teachers introduced their students and provided an overview of the project. The West Oakland Watershed Project combined several funding sources, including an \$8,000 grant from SFEP. The project financed creek restoration, student participation in watershed curriculum and library resources, construction of a pond with a solar powered fountain, and the production of a musical based on the curriculum. More than 75 Cole Elementary School students were involved in the play "Find the Love....A Water Goddess Tale," which was attended by more than 500 people. They also made a video documenting the project. SFEP will receive a copy of the video for our resource library. WOW's next goal is to educate the middle school audience. SFEP was thanked for their partnership as the students and the community greatly benefited from the grant.
- Small Grants Program – next round – *Carol Thornton, SFEP* Ms. Thornton announced the schedule for the 2004-2005 Small Grant Program. Volunteers are needed for the review panel and assistance in developing the interested parties mail list.

5. **Progress Reports and Updates**

- Ecosystem Indicators and Performance Measures for the Estuary – *Mike Connor, SFEI/Gary Bobker, Bay Institute* Dr. Connor stated that the Ecosystem Indicators Report, a collaborative effort by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration and The Bay Institute, has been published. A Steering Committee has been established to provide guidance for the indicators effort. A survey of other similar work, including the State Water Board and CALFED, has been considered and efforts to collaborate with them are underway. US EPA is providing funds for Battelle to work with the Steering Committee to organize a workshop for building understanding and collaboration on the benefits that indicators/performance measures will provide for the Estuary. The Bay Institute has discussed its Bay Index or Report Card with The San Francisco Chronicle. The Chronicle is very interested in the

health of the Bay and will publish an 8-page feature on indicators possibly next Spring. Dr. Connor said the Steering Committee is seeking funding for this important project.

- Sediment Management Plan for the Estuary – Report from Work Group Dr. Connor and Rick Morat distributed a report entitled, “Agency Sediment Policies Coordination” from the work group. It outlined the problem and a proposal to organize a workshop on this topic. Between \$15-20,000 would be needed to organize a workshop for stakeholders in the coming year.

Action: The IC approved a motion to support the concept of a Sediment Management Workshop. Members discussed possible venues for sediment issues to be presented, including the CALFED Science Conference and 2005 State of the Estuary Conference.

- CALFED Activities – Jean Auer, SFEP Ms. Auer reported a couple of re-occurring themes regarding CALFED’ future funding. The Finance Panel is working on a plan, which is due by January 2005. Ms. Auer commented that State bonds are declining and federal funds are still being worked out in legislation. State legislation is focusing on fees and not taxes. The Governor does not support fees for water. He will go to Court to stop water fees, however a big player, Metropolitan Water District, supports water fees. The Governor’s California Performance Review and reorganization also adds a new dimension to water management.
- SFEP Construction Site Planning/Water Quality Protection Workshops – Carol Thornton, SFEP. Ms. Thornton announced that the 2004 Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops begin September 9th. In its 6th year, the program has been quite successful in educating the construction industry about erosion control best management practices. Registration brochures are available.

6. Possible Items and Assignments for November 5, 2004 Meeting Agenda - Larry Kolb, Chair

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| - Cattle grazing management/grazing practices | - Fire fuel management practices |
| - Mercury TMDL for the Bay/tidal marsh restoration | - Geographic Subcommittees Report |
| - SF Ecosystem Indicators | - Regional Monitoring Program |
| - Update on invasive species issues and State legislation | |

7. Announcements

- Ms. Brockbank per Dan Ray (CALFED) referred IC members to the August 12, 2004 CBDA Ecosystem Restoration Program’s Monitoring Grant Proposal Package.
- Ms. Brockbank per Dan Ray (CALFED) asked that IC Members view CALFED’s Assessing Progress Towards Milestones and Efficacy of the Environmental Water Account at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/envcomp/webintroduction.asp>
- CALFED Science Conference at the Sacramento Convention Center, October 4-6, 2004
- Mr. Raab has resigned from the ABAG/CALFED Task Force. Ted Smith will move from alternate to representative.
- SFEP will post IC Agenda and Meeting Summaries on the SFEP website.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM

<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting November 5, 2004 Vacaville Cultural Center, Vacaville, CA</p>
